

## Post Shorts

### Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Dec. 10 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



### FMWR hosts Holiday Arts, Crafts Show today

Everyone is invited to the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Holiday Arts and Crafts Show, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 4, at Top of the Bay. This event is free and anyone who has access to the installation can attend.

For more information, call Top of the Bay, 410-278-3062.

### RAB meeting scheduled tonight

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Dec. 4, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on performance-based contracts.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call the Information Line at (410) 272-8842 or (800) APG-9998.

### FEHB open season

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season runs through Dec. 8.

Employees who wish to change their health benefits carrier should visit <https://www.abc.army.mil> or call 1-877-276-9287. Changes become effective Jan. 4, 2009.

For more information, contact Teri Wright, Civilian Personnel Advisory

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Holiday safety open house at fire station



## Slip sliding away

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON  
Leclee Brown, 11, glides down a new fire engine slide belonging to the Fire and Emergency Services Division during the Holiday Safety Open House at building 2200 Nov. 22. See article and more photos on page 17.

## Thanksgiving vouchers ease holiday worries for APG Families

Story and photo by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

More than 114 Aberdeen Proving Ground Families celebrated a bountiful Thanksgiving thanks to the efforts of the post Sergeants Major Association, the APG chapels and the Post Commissary.

For the second year in a row, APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Pedro Rodriguez led efforts to ensure Soldiers identified by their chains of command were not stressed financially by the holiday.

Designated offerings by post chapel congregations garnered \$5,000 in donations plus donations from the Sergeants Major Association and private donors enabled \$50 and \$75 vouchers to be provided for 114 Families.

Hours before the Commissary opened for business on Nov. 24, the

recipients reported to the store where they signed in and then received their vouchers.

Association members volunteered to bag and transport the Soldiers' groceries to their vehicles and several cashiers volunteered to report to work early for the event.

Rodriguez said the program was set up to ensure "the right Families got the right help."

"It was important to identify Families through the sergeants major because they know their Soldiers," Rodriguez said.

He said the idea came to him while he was serving as sergeant major of the 22nd Chemical Battalion prior to taking the position at the garrison and that he was compelled to identify those in need and provide for all.

The number one criterion was that selected Fam-



From left, Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Freeman, 61st Ordnance Brigade; OC&S Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Eubanks and Sgt. Maj. Osvaldo Ponzo, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, bag groceries for APG Soldier recipients of Thanksgiving food vouchers at the Post Commissary Nov. 24.

ilies planned to be home and not traveling during the Thanksgiving holiday, he said.

"We also wanted to get away from choosing [the food] for the Families," he added, noting that in years

past, Families received baskets of pre-chosen food items.

See **VOUCHERS**, page 12

## Recruitment cell helps Wounded Warriors find jobs

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

During these difficult economic times, Wounded Warriors can count on help from the Civilian Human Resources Agency and the Army Wounded Warrior Program to assist in placing them in civilian jobs with the Department of the Army.

John Carbone, a human resource Specialist who works in a newly formed Army Wounded Warrior recruitment cell at CHRA Headquarters on Aberdeen Proving Ground, said that Lt. Gen. Michael Rochelle, deputy chief of staff of the Army, G-1, set forth an initiative to make recruiting Army Wounded Warriors and their spouses a main concern.

Rochelle addressed this initiative in a statement that was submitted to the Senate on March 28, 2007.

"Soldiers suffering from severe injuries or illnesses in support of the Global War on Terrorism deserve the highest priority from our Army for support," Rochelle said. "These heroes need services associated with healing, recuperation and rehabilitation, evaluation for return to duty and, if required, successful transition from active duty to civilian life."

Rochelle continued by saying that the Army Wounded Warrior Program, also known as AW2, actively seeks employment and

See **AW2**, page 16

## Military leaders feel comfortable with U.S.-Iraqi withdrawal agreement

Story by  
**JIM GARAMONE**  
American Forces Press Service

All American troops will be out of Iraq by the end of 2011 under the status of forces agreement between the United States and Iraq, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Nov. 17.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen called the agreement important and one the United States needs to continue to operate in Iraq after the U.N. mandate expires Dec. 31.

U.S. officials in Baghdad said Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker signed off on the pact Nov. 16, and Maliki presented it to the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

U.S. military leaders are com-

fortable with the provisions of the agreement, including previous concerns that American forces have the necessary legal protections to continue to conduct operations in the country, Mullen said.

"Conditions continue to improve [in Iraq], and specifically, I mean we continue to withdraw forces," Mullen said during the Pentagon news conference.

The chairman said he is satisfied with the rate of withdrawal. "[We are] clearly moving forward in a measured way," he said.

Iraqi security forces have made tremendous progress and should be ready to assume the primary duty of defending their own

See **2011**, page 8

## Help a fellow employee through donated leave

CPAC

The leave donation program was established to assist individuals with medical emergencies who have exhausted both their annual and sick leave balances.

Carolyn Russell, program coordinator for the Aberdeen Proving Ground Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, can assist anyone with questions.

### Recipient

Some civilians are not aware that they can receive donated leave to care for sick Family members, Russell said.

"The recipient does not have to be the ill one. It can be a sick husband, child, mother, etc. As long as there is a medical emergency, they can stay in the program," she said.

She added that the leave donation program is also available to recipients with complicated

pregnancies.

Recipients of the leave donation program must submit an application to get on the list. Prior to doing so, the recipient must have a supervisor sign a request, thus granting them permission to take leave. Without the supervisor's signature, the application cannot be processed.

Once Russell receives the application, she verifies that they meet all requirements. As part of the process, the recipient must prove that it is a medical emergency that can be documented by a hospital or physician and that the recipient has no annual or accrued sick leave balance. If the applicant meets the requirements to become a donor, the person is added to the list and given the option of listing the medical emergency or not.

See **LEAVE**, page 3

## ATC constructs new facility to help Army test vehicles at high speeds

Story by  
**MIKE CAST**  
Army Developmental Test Command

Sen. Barbara Mikulski and staff representing Sen. Benjamin Cardin, Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger and Wayne Gilchrest joined local officials and military representatives at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center Nov. 13 to officially begin construction of a multi-million dollar test track designed to allow high-speed testing of military vehicles.

When complete, the Automotive Technology Evaluation Facility, or ATEF, will be a multi-surface test track about 4.5 miles long and more than 200 feet wide, enabling military vehicles to undergo test-

ing at sustained high speeds.

The Army sees this as a critical test capability because today's high-tech tactical military vehicles – from the Abrams M1A2 main battle tank to the more recently developed family of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles – are designed to operate at substantially higher speeds than their predecessors. The speed of today's military vehicles can exceed 70 mph, according to new requirements.

The ATEF is not a replacement for other automotive test tracks at ATC. It is designed to complement them, said Col. John Rooney, ATC's commander.

See **ATEF**, page 8



# Garrison Native American program explores ‘many worlds’

Story and photos by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Music, history, culture and military contributions highlighted the Aberdeen Proving Ground Native American Heritage Program’s annual observance of National American Indian Heritage Month at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Nov.19.

With the theme, ‘Living in Many Worlds,’ the program featured musical performances, a food tasting of traditional dishes and remarks by Harford County Council member Richard G. Slutzky.

Angela Conlon, a budget analyst with the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, was the mistress of ceremonies for the program which was sponsored by the Garrison’s Native American Heritage committee and supported by APG tenant organizations, equal opportunity advisors and liaisons and equal opportunity special emphasis program managers.

Noting that President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month in 1990, Conlon said the program was an opportunity to, “honor our native people and recognize them for strengthening the diversity of our society.”

“We have a wonderful program today to honor the cultural traditions, history and patriotism of Native Americans who served and are serving in the military,” she said.



Flutist Jan Seiden plays the national anthem on a Native American flute to open the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison’s National American Indian Heritage Month program at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Nov. 19.

APG Garrison and deputy installation commander Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman introduced the guest speaker after thanking committee members for their continuing work.

“Native Americans are a natural part of our national identity,” Weissman said. “Throughout the years they have served our country with great distinction, and today they are an important and proud part of the U.S. Army.”

He introduced Slutzky as one who has “worn many hats throughout his careers,” as a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, a

former member of the Harford County Board of Education, and a former teacher and wrestling coach.

“He’s with us today because the study of Native American history and culture is one of his favorite hobbies,” Weissman said.

Slutzky said that although he was no expert he had gained significant knowledge after more than 30 years of study and visiting reservations around the country.

He focused his talk on the Native American presence along the Chesapeake Bay around the time of “first contact,” specifically,

during the explorations of the bay by Capt. John Smith, from 1607 to 1609, and questioned the likelihood of Smith encountering Native Americans in the Cecil, Harford and Baltimore County regions.

He said that Smith encountered Appomattox Indians along the southern bay and on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, and found that the areas between the Patuxent and Potomac rivers were heavily populated.

Along the Northern Chesapeake he encountered Manahoacs who were not native to the region and

traded trinkets with another tribe in Northern Maryland that he called the Susquehanna Indians but which historians later said could not have been.

Along the Western Shore of Maryland, Slutzky said, Smith had no encounters.

“Harford, Cecil and Baltimore counties were virtually deserted,” he said.

What Smith did find was a region with bountiful fish and wildlife. Slutzky theorized that the area was a mutual hunting ground.

“This area was so rich in fish and game that tribes may have developed hunting agreements with neighboring tribes,” he said. “That’s my story and I’m sticking to it.”

“I hope he has inspired a passion for Native American history in others,” Weissman said as he thanked Slutzky. “I know he inspired me.”

Musical entertainment was provided by Story Teller Jan Seiden, a national award-winning flutist and winner of the 2006 Maryland State Arts Council Award.

Seiden opened the program with the national anthem. She took listeners on a flute journey, performing several original Native American songs on different types of flutes.

At one point, Seiden fascinated the audience by playing two flutes at one time.

“She is one of the best there is,” said Barbara Tarczynski, a human resources specialist with the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command and a member of

the Harford County chapter of Windsongs, Native American Flute Circle. The group displayed information about Seiden including her CDs, ‘Memory of Time’ and ‘Woodland Winds.’

Tarczynski said she enjoyed the program and displays.

“You can see a lot of work and research went into them,” she said.

### Food tasting

Native American dishes of succotash, Seminole baconed hominy, and bean dip were prepared by Linda Brown, ECBC supervisory financial analyst.

Brown said she settled on the menu due to the Native American technique of planting known as Three Sisters.

“The corn would provide nutrients for the other plants and also support the beans,” she said. “The squash prevents weeds and beans also feed the soil.”

### Essay, display contest

Dr. Demetrios Prapas, ECBC was the first place winner for both the essay and display portions of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools’ competition.

The runner-up essay award went to the Non-commissioned Officer Academy’s Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course Class #0309 63B.

The runner-up display award went to BNCOC Class #0209 63B.

(Editor’s note: For more on Terry Lough, ARL, see APG News issue Aug. 14, 2008, page 4, [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil).)

## Native American displays



Photo courtesy of DR. DEMETRIOS PRAPAS

Dr. Demetrios Prapas, ECBC Engineering Division supervisory engineer and team leader, displayed a collection of Native American books, pottery, photographs and artwork along with his essay titled ‘Living in Many Worlds,’ after the program theme.

A native of Greece, Prapas said he enjoys learning all he can about different cultures and

sharing that knowledge.

“With this display I tried to elaborate on the background of the Native American Culture,” he said. “When we share cultures we become wiser, and we appreciate the meaning of being an American. Understanding each other is what makes the difference and makes people able to achieve the American Dream.”



Above, representative Dan Coates, left, talks about the artifacts with John Kennedy of the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. The Archaeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake featured a collection of fur skins, animal bones, pipes and weapons that were unearthed in the surrounding area.



Left, Ellen Halchak, a U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command employee with Delaware and Cherokee roots, displayed a dance shawl, hair comb, moccasins and other items from the Delaware Indians including a Choctaw skirt made by her daughter.



Displayers included Terry Lough, above right, a mail clerk with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, who brought his collection of handmade beaded moccasins, pipe bags, breastplates, a headdress, an assortment of hand painted feathers and other items (photos above).

Lough said he’s been collecting since he was a



child, searching for arrowheads with his grandfather. He brought part of that collection with him as well.

“Most of these are from Maryland and West Virginia. You can find them everywhere but they’re concentrated near natural waterways,” he said.

## APG News

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Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday’s paper.

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# CECOM commander speaks at AUSA luncheon

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Logistics, mission, construction and personnel issues involving the movement of U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command and Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance ( Army Team C4ISR) organizations to Aberdeen Proving Ground under the base realignment and closure laws were the topics of discussion during the annual Association of the United States Army luncheon at Top of the Bay Nov. 25.

The guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, CECOM LCMC, provided listeners

with a detailed account of the current and projected status of the move, Army Team C4ISR missions and goals and the impact on employees, business, the local community, the Warfighter and the Army.

Via first thanked Mary Jane Jernigan, president of the Aberdeen AUSA chapter and Aren Self, president of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, for co-hosting the program.

Using a slide presentation to illustrate his points, Via started with the aspects of Army Team C4ISR - its chain of command and mission - and calling its workforce the “team behind the team.”

“The team behind the team is a diverse, highly

educated and experienced workforce,” Via said. “This is the kind of workforce we need.”

He said that Army Team C4ISR is engaged CONUS-wide and deployed globally and that its priorities include global support to joint Warfighters; transformation, and commitments to ARFORGEN, the Army Forces Generation process used to manage the force and ensure the ability to support demands for Army forces; and RESET, the process designed to reverse the effects of combat stress and extend the life of Army equipment.

He said the guiding principles are to make BRAC moves “transparent to Soldiers engaged in combat, to reduce professional and

personal turbulence... and to assist in the transition of the workforce.”

Personnel moves involve employees in Fort Monmouth, N.J.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; and Columbus, Ohio, Via said.

He touched on the “Organization, Planning and Execution” noting that employees were updated during a Nov. 14 visit by Army Team C4ISR employees to the C4ISR site now under construction at APG, and he said that communication outlets for employees include town hall meetings, workforce surveys, One-Stop Transition Centers located at Fort Monmouth and at APG, the Army Team C4ISR Knowledge Centers, and bus trips as well as infor-

mation being distributed in the post newspaper.

“Our goal is to provide our employees with current BRAC information so they can make informed decisions about their future,” Via said.

He discussed mission continuity, industry and academia partnerships and introduced his command’s new *Spectra* magazine which also will become a tool for keeping the public and employees informed. (See next week’s *APG News* for more on Spectra magazine.)

Via said the overall Army Team C4ISR goal is to become a “fully integrated Life Cycle Management Team and to provide enterprise-wide C4ISR capabilities to the Warfighter.”

He shared the story of a

military funeral he attended in Massachusetts to remind listeners that, “it’s all about the Soldier.”

“Our Warfighters are committed, and we are committed to them,” he said. “They are our greatest assets.”

Other program highlights included the invocation by APG Garrison and installation Chaplain (Col.) Ruben D. Colon Jr., and the introduction of the guest speaker by retired Lt. Gen Keith Kellogg, former J6 Joint Staff and commander of the 82nd Airborne Division.

The 61st Ordnance Brigade color guard posted and retired the colors, and Sgt. Tony Gentilo, a vocalist with the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, sang the national anthem.

## AUSA organization donates \$20,000 to Fisher House program

Aberdeen Chapter AUSA

The Aberdeen Chapter of the Association of the United States Army added to an already busy year of supporting charitable causes with a donation of \$20,000 to the Fisher House Foundation.

The donation was made by the chapter’s newest member, R4, Inc., during the October opening of its new 21,000 square-foot facility in the Edgewood Lakeside development.

Mary Jane Jernigan, Aberdeen AUSA chapter president, joined R4 Inc. in presenting the check to Fisher House representative Stacey Thomas.

A division manager with



Quantum Research International in Bel Air, Jernigan said the dollar amount exceeded the chapter’s expectation.

“When Dave Lewis [R4 Inc. president] announced the donation to be twenty-thousand dollars, I wasn’t sure if I heard

correctly,” Jernigan said. “R4 wanted to raise awareness and funds for the Fisher House, and I think they did just that.”

Lewis said, “The work that R4 does directly impacts the survivability of those who serve us and protect our nation. We’re proud to be part of a community like Harford County – one that shares a passion for supporting those who protect us.”

Scott Cheseldine of R4, Inc. and a member of the Aberdeen AUSA Board of Directors coordinated the event.

**Fisher House**  
[www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)

The Fisher House program is a

unique private-public partnership that supports America’s military in their time of need. Because members of the military and their Families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House Foundation donates “comfort homes,” built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable Family members to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease or injury.

There is at least one Fisher House at every major military medical center to assist Families in need to ensure that they are provided with the comforts

of home in a supportive environment. Annually, the Fisher House program serves more than 10,000 Families and have made available nearly 2.5 million days of lodging to Family members since the program originated in 1990. By law, there is no charge for any Family to stay at a Fisher House operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Fisher House Foundation uses donations to reimburse the individual Fisher houses operated by the Army, Navy and Air Force.

No Family pays to stay at any Fisher House.

(Editor’s note: The Fisher House donation code from the 2008 CFC Contributor’s Guide is 11453.)

## Leave

From front page

### Donor

Before a donor can donate leave, there are several things to take into consideration, Russell said.

“You must first have annual leave available to donate,” she said.

She noted that a donor can only donate half of their total accrued annual leave. And she added that sick leave cannot be donated.

Donors in the 8-hour category can only donate 104 hours, the 6-hour category can only donate 78 hours and the four-hour category can only donate 52 hours of annual leave.

“A lot of people think they can donate sick leave, but they cannot donate sick leave,” she said.

Russell also stated another common question is whether or not donating leave is tax deductible.

“I’m asked this question all the time, but donating leave is not tax deductible,” Russell said.

If a donor wants to donate leave to an individual at APG, she suggests completing OPM Form 630A, (Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program).

Since the program is

available to all government civilian employees, any leave accrued can be donated to any government employee, whether they work at APG or at any other government facility.

When requesting to donate leave to an individual outside of APG, the donor must complete OPM Form 630B, (Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program).

On both forms, the donor is asked to select the intended recipient and the number of hours to be donated.

“It is the responsibility of the donor to select the recipient. From an ethical standpoint, I cannot do that for them,” Russell said.

She offered an example of a donor having a co-worker who needs leave and said that the donor may request that it go to that person. She also noted that in some cases the donor may not know the individual and selects a person because of the nature of the illness.

“Some donors don’t know the person they have selected but are aware of the illness. So they make decisions based on the nature of the illness,” Russell said.

She also added that it is the right of the recipient to release their name or the illness.

“Some recipients list their names and the illness and some don’t. At the recipient’s request, it is our policy not to give out the names until they are out of the program, unless otherwise instructed by the recipient,” Russell said.

She noted that a list of names appear in the *APG News* bi-weekly, for those looking to select a recipient.

“All they have to do is pick up a copy of the *APG News* and read it. Every other week, there is information about donating leave,” Russell said.

### Match making

After both the applicant and donor’s information have been verified, Russell processes the information to the Defense, Finance and Accounting automated system.

Once the approval process is complete, the recipient is granted leave.

It is understandable, Russell said, for donors wanting to know if the leave has been allocated to a recipient.

“Simply look at your Leave and Earnings Statements; it appears automatically once the leave has been allocated,” Russell said.

She noted that it may take one to two pay periods for it to appear on the LES statement.

Russell said that it is extremely important to note the deadline for donors to get OPM Forms 630A or 630B is by Dec. 31.

“The cut off is December 31. If you are going to lose your leave, you may as well donate it,” Russell said.

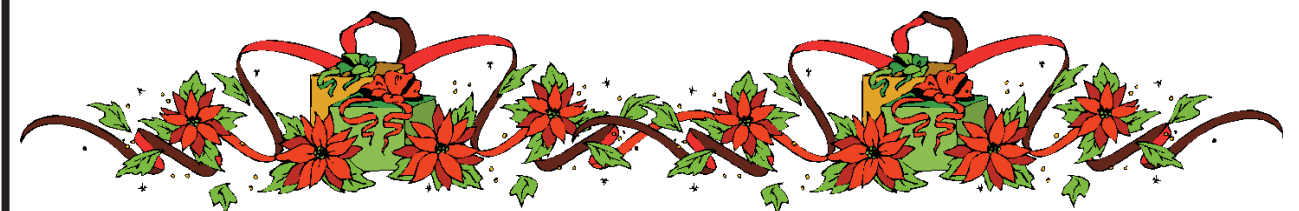
She said that forms received after Dec. 31 would not be allocated and the leave will be lost.

To contact Russell, e-mail [carolyn.russell@us.army.mil](mailto:carolyn.russell@us.army.mil) or call 410-306-0078.

# Chapel News

## Holiday worship services through Jan. 1

Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area)			Edgewood Area		
<b>Catholic</b>			<b>Catholic</b>		
Sun., Dec. 7	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.	Sun., Dec. 7	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Mon., Dec. 8	Holy Day mass	6:30 p.m.	Mon., Dec. 8	Holy Day mass	12 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 14	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.	Sun., Dec. 14	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.	Sat., Dec. 20	Holiday dinner	5:30 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 25	Christmas mass with Nativity Pageant	9 a.m.	Sat., Dec. 20	Post Stable Liturgy	7 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Mass	8:45 a.m.	Sun., Dec. 21	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 31	Vigil mass	6:30 p.m.	Thu., Dec. 25	Christmas mass	11:15 a.m.
<b>Protestant</b>			Sun., Dec. 28	Mass	10:45 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 7	AMC Band/Advent	10:15 a.m.	Thur., Jan. 1	Holy Day mass	10 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 14	Christmas Cantata	10:15 a.m.	<b>Protestant</b>		
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent worship	10:15 a.m.	Sun., Dec. 7	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 24	Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7 p.m.	Sun., Dec. 14	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	10:15 a.m.	Sun., Dec. 21	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
<b>Gospel</b>			Wed., Dec. 24	Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 7	Worship	12 p.m.	Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	9:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 14	Worship	12 p.m.	<b>Ecumenical</b>		
Sun., Dec. 21	Worship	12 p.m.	(Protestant and Catholic), Nativity Scene/Crèche Exhibit and St. Nicholas Celebration, Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m., Dec. 7, at the Main Post Chapel.		
Wed., Dec. 24	Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7p.m.	<i>Please note: The Candlelight Service is ecumenical on Wed., 7 p.m., Dec. 24 at the Main Post Chapel. Everyone is welcome.</i>		
Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	12 p.m.			
Wed., Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Watch Night Service	10 p.m.			



## Commentary: Advent—a new beginning

By  
**CHAPLAIN (MAJ)  
YOUNG D. KIM**  
USAG

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and extends through Christmas eve. It is the beginning of the new liturgical year. It is the season of spiritual preparation, marked by the eager longing for the coming of

the Savior through grace at Christmas and for his second and final coming.

The custom of the Advent wreath is a practice in homes in various parts of the world and is cherished in American homes. It is not a “new” custom, but a custom centuries old, though it is not as old as most Christmas traditions.

The Advent wreath originated in the 16th Century in Eastern Germany. As with many things, Christi-

anity adopted the Advent wreath from light symbols which were used in folklore at the end of November and the beginning of December. These lights of outside festivals were brought into the home and the Germans made these, what are only nature’s symbols, into religious symbols of Advent.

The Advent wreath is made up of evergreens as a sign of eternal life. It is either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a

table or stand.

Fastened to the wreath are four candles. Frequently the candles are red, but in our churches the candles are usually purple.

Advent itself means “to come” or the time of awaiting the coming of the Messiah.

The wreath represents the cycle of thousands of years from Adam to Christ during which the world awaits the coming of a Redeemer. The New Testament says that “humanity was sitting in darkness and the shadow of death.” (Luke 2:79)

The wreath also represents the cycle of years since the coming of the Redeemer and while we wait for the second coming and his final coming in glory.

The wreath is an ancient symbol of glory and victory, thus it symbolizes the “fulfillment of time” in the coming of Christ and the glory of his birth.

Four candles are placed equally apart on the wreath, three purple ones as a sign of hope, peace, love, respectively, and one rose colored candle as a sign of joy that the Messiah is near. A fifth candle, referred to as the Christ candle, white in color, is sometimes used in the center of the Advent wreath as a sign of his coming as the light of the world or the ‘good news.’





# Commentary: Let’s be careful out there

By  
**BILL ARMSTRONG**  
*APG Wildlife and Marine Law  
Enforcement Division*

Perhaps this article is kinda late, seeing as how Maryland’s statewide firearm deer hunting season just started on Saturday, the 29th and runs through December 13, but as the old saying goes, “Better late than never.” Hopefully, I can get those of you who plan on doing some deer hunting to do some thinking.

What prompts me to write this article is a discussion I had yesterday with one of West Virginia’s conservation officers (Natural Resources Police).

Before I came to APG, I spent 20 years with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources as a law enforcement officer. Every now and then we’ll chat and compare notes on similar issues that pop up from time to time.

Anyway, as he and I were talking, the subject of their deer firearm season came up, and I was flabbergasted by what he told me.

On the first day of West Virginia’s deer firearm season this year, there were four fatal hunter related accidents; and that figure doesn’t include the non-fatal injuries!! Think about that for a moment: four people, who started out from home with the idea in mind of spending a few days in the woods hunting for deer, didn’t make it back.

I’m sure most of these accidents are still under investigation but here are some of the preliminary findings thus far. Two individuals died in separate incidents from having been overcome by carbon monoxide poison-

ing after leaving a lantern burning inside their enclosed camper; another died after his ATV rolled over on top of him, while another died after falling out of his elevated tree stand. One shot himself in the foot while loading his high-powered rifle, and still another, a 13-year-old, accidentally shot himself in the arm.

Would someone please tell me: why would you rest the business end of a high powered rifle on your foot while you were loading it?

Common sense tells me that every one of those accidents was preventable.

So, if you’re planning on doing some deer hunting, here are a few things I’ve learned over the years. Hopefully you’ll keep them in mind when you’re out there looking for Mister Buck:

- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded, and always keep it pointed in a safe direction.

- Always be sure of your target and what’s on the other side of it. That bullet you’re shooting is capable of killing up to a mile away.

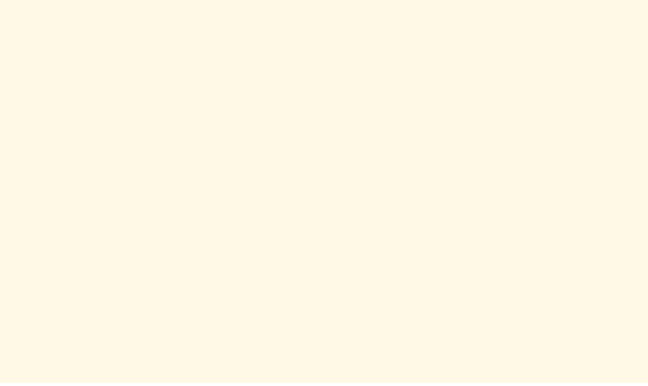
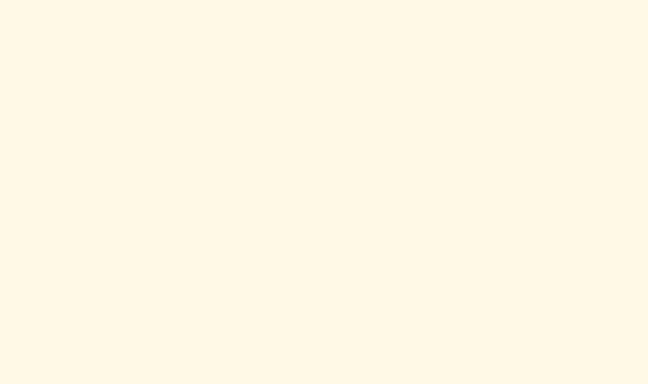
- Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you’re ready to shoot.

- Alcohol and hunting don’t mix...leave the booze alone!

- Ask yourself: “Am I physically able to hunt?” “Can I drag a one-hundred pound deer a half mile?” “When was the last time I walked a couple of miles or used my portable tree stand?” “Is my tree-stand safety harness in good shape?”

Years ago there was a character actor on a TV show called “Hill Street Blues” who played the wise, old desk sergeant who’d seen it all. At the end of each roll-call briefing his closing piece of advice was, “Hey! Let’s be careful out there!”

I can’t say it any better than that!



# APG employees pitch in to make holiday season more joyous

Story by  
**MIKE CAST**  
*U.S. Army Developmental Test Command*

Like other youngsters throughout America, the children in U.S. Army Families look forward to Christmas in keen anticipation of awakening Christmas morning to find gifts under the tree. But some Army parents find it difficult to buy those gifts because of financial hardship. To help out, Army Community Service, the proving ground’s tenant organizations and donors have volunteered to support the APG’s Angel Tree

program, an effort similar to the one stores such as Wal-Mart undertake. Cards or decorations bearing needy children’s names and their Christmas wishes are hung from a Christmas tree, and donors can use this information to make the children’s Christmas a little brighter. In coordination with ACS, organizations such as the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command and the Civilian Personnel Operations Center have played a key role in supporting this program, according to Cynthia Kane,

a DTC volunteer for whom the Angel Tree program is a labor of love. ACS established the program several years ago, with a focus on Soldiers who face difficulties in giving their children the items on their children’s wish list, said Kane, a former CPOC employee. “We wanted to do something for Soldiers and their Families, and we found out that there are a lot of Families having a hard time making ends meet,” Kane said. “We contacted Army Community Service, and they validated that. They had a list of children they were helping in various ways, and what we did was take that list and [purchased] gifts for the children.” To meet that need, Kane and others collected donated gifts for children whose names were hung from the tree. “They had a tree and put [ornament] tags on it, and everybody could take the tags to buy gifts,” Kane explained. “People cared about Soldiers and the Soldiers’ Families, and some brought multiple gifts for the children. It’s always a pleasure, I believe, to buy for children, especially for children who have less than others. Sometimes the requests were so simple – a doll or a toy car.” The response from DTC, CPOC and other

agencies on APG was good, but Kane didn’t confine her collections on post but gathered gifts in the off-post neighborhood in which she lives – Westgate in Bel Air, a community with about 125 homes. She put out flyers in her community, and the response was heart-warming. “My community has been very responsive, and we’ve done this every year since then,” she said. “The community averages about seventy-five gifts during the season. Not everyone participates, but some people show up at my door with a bag full of gifts.” Although gifts are normally matched with individual children, Kane makes a list and asks DTC to use the list as a guide for what to buy. “At DTC, the list had the number of children, their ages, their desires, and things like that,” she said. “With so many people participating in giving gifts, you can always find the right gift for the right child. For example, somebody brought in a bicycle and a bicycle helmet – which was a huge gift – or a girl’s dresser. But any gifts are appreciated.” The Northeast Region CPOC’s Leslie McGlothlin described the donations from Kane’s neighborhood as “phenomenal,” as was the participation of her organization and other

APG tenants. At the time CPOC was collecting toys, the agency had about 275 employees, and practically everyone participated, McGlothlin said. “It was really easy to realize at Christmas time that some Soldiers, their children and Families wouldn’t have a very good Christmas, so we collaborated with Army Community Service to sponsor children,” McGlothlin said. “We were able to pick out things that – well, you know – a teenager would maybe want, a gift card from Target, and a young child would want, a Ninja-doll or something like that. The response from the Northeast CPOC was absolutely fabulous. Combined with what Cindy’s neighbors did, it was just remarkable. We would literally have truckloads of toys, clothes and things that we could give to the Families. It is what Christmas is all about. “We got some thank-you notes from Family members that said what we did really made a difference. We didn’t do it for the notes, but it just brought home that it was a worthwhile project,” she said. McGlothlin said CPOC’s Cheryl Litteral was the agency’s chairperson for the program. She arrived in the Northeast Region in January of 2004 and volunteered to help in

December of the following year. She took over the position as chairperson from Kim Hoyle, another CPOC employee. “Plenty” of other federal employees volunteer to help with the program, she added. The Angel Tree program seems to have started when Hoyle was its chairperson, Litteral said. Soldiers and employees of on-post units such as CPOC and DTC have many volunteers, and many Soldiers who have heard about the program through a spouse or other Family member, Litteral explained, adding that Hoyle’s husband worked for a military police unit that helped out in a previous year. “My husband was a first sergeant at the NCOAC, [Noncommissioned Officers Academy] and he heard about the program through me,” she said. “He thought that it would be something really nice for the NCOAC and the Audie Murphy Club to be part of. My husband was the president of the club at the time. “The only problem I ever have is keeping my co-workers away from the holiday tree until all of the ornaments are on it. I usually get five or six ornaments hung up, and before I can get the seventh one up, there are people waiting outside to come and snatch up the ornaments,” Litteral said.

## Coat drive successful in keeping Edgewood residents warm for another year

Story by  
**KENDRA ABAIDOO**  
*ECBC*

A kaleidoscope of fall colors and brisk wind helped mark the end of an annual coat drive Nov. 10 as volunteers from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center handed off dozens of donated winter coats to representatives from a local

group dedicated to helping citizens in need. A partnership between ECBC, the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, the Chemical Materials Agency and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense ended Nov. 7 with two trucks filled with clean, gently-used coats, jackets, hats, gloves and scarves for all sizes, from infant to adult. “The coat drive was a huge success this year

because of the generosity of employees from ECBC, RDECOM-HQ, CMA and MRICD,” said ECBC employee Janna Madren-Whalley, one of the event’s 26 volunteers. “Fifty-three large bags of coats, scarves, gloves and other outerwear were transferred to The Sharing Table volunteers.” Based in Edgewood, The Sharing Table is a group of churches and civic associations that provide meals, shelter, groceries and assistance to those in need.

Coats will be distributed to people without warm clothing as they arrive for the group’s weekly meals held each Saturday at Prince of Peace Church, 2206 Willoughby Beach Road, Edgewood. “The Sharing Table volunteers selflessly give their time to help those in the community that are less fortunate and are in need of assistance,” said Madren-Whalley, a biologist in the Research and Technology Directorate. “We would like to thank the coat drive committee members and the building points of contact for doing such a wonderful job and for the generous gift of their time.” For more information about The Sharing Table, go to <http://thesharing-table.org/>.



# Fundraising within the U.S. Army: Do’s and don’t’s

Story by  
**CAPT KATHERINE KING-WALKER**  
OSJA

Flyers are posted throughout the year: “Come support the A Company car wash,” “Stop by the Family Readiness Group bake sale,” but what can military and Department of Defense civilian members of the Army do when it comes to fundraising for their unit?

This article is not an exhaustive list of ‘do’s and don’t’s,’ but is meant as a general guide to assist with questions that may arise when thinking about fundraising.

Before getting into the do’s and don’t’s, below are a few relevant definitions:

- *Fundraising:* Any activity conducted for the purpose of collecting money, goods, or other support for the benefit of others.

- *Personally solicit:* To request or otherwise encourage donations or other support either through person-to-person contact or through the use of one’s name or identity in correspondence or by permitting its use by others.

- *On-the-job fundraising:* Fundraising targeting federal employees and members of the uniformed services at their places of employment or duty station during working hours.

## Do’s

Can an employee fundraise within the Army, and if so, what can be done?

- Fundraise for the Combined Federal Campaign. Absent truly exceptional circumstances, CFC is the only authorized means of fundraising in support of health, welfare and philanthropic organizations where members of the general public are the beneficiaries of the programs. The CFC is both an approved and officially encouraged means of fundraising.

- Fundraising in support of the uniformed-services. Fundraising by members of the uniformed services among their own members for organizational support or for the benefit of welfare funds for their members is authorized.

- Army Emergency Relief. Fundraising for the AER campaign is authorized. The provisions of AR 600-29 and AR 930-4 must be followed.

- Local fundraising. Fundraising in support of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities, occasional fundraising in support of on-post private organizations and limited fundraising to assist the unfortunate, as authorized by local commanders and heads of activities is authorized. For example, canned food drives, or placing a collection box in public areas for charitable causes is okay.

- Religious fundraising. Fundraising by religious organizations or their affiliates is authorized only in connection with religious services and must be conducted under the supervision of the chaplain.

## Don’t’s

What can’t be done when fundraising within the Army?

- Conflict with CFC and AER. The general rule is that fundraising activities should not be conducted during conflicting periods, nor should those activities substantially interfere with the CFC and/or AER fundraising drives. However, fundraisers may be conducted during CFC and/or AER drives as long as the fundraiser is kept to a minimum in number and scope to avoid interfering with either CFC or AER.

- On-the-job-solicitation. Only CFC and AER may solicit on-the-job for money or a monetary contribution in the workplace. All other fundraising must be conducted off duty and not in the workplace.

- Endorsement. DoD employees shall not offi-

cially “endorse” or appear to endorse membership drives or fundraising for any non-federal entity (or private organization). One exception to this rule is that a commander/director may endorse a fundraiser conducted by members of his organization for the benefit of its members.

- Voluntary giving. Contributions to fundraisers are to be strictly voluntary and without coercion. Commanders should not solicit or ask whether an individual has contributed to a particular fundraiser.

- No lists. Other than for routine collection and administration, there should not be a list of persons who did not contribute. For example, an office roster with check marks by the names of persons already asked is okay, but the contribution amount should not be listed.

- Conducting fundraisers off post. Fundraising off the installation is problematic as it involves strong potential for contradicting multiple provisions of the Joint Ethics Regulation.

At Aberdeen Proving Ground, all fundraising requests are required to be submitted for approval by the APG Solicitation Office. Seeking this approval is necessary but is neither time consuming nor difficult. However, late submission can interfere with one’s ability to proceed as planned.

Fundraisers can be fun and a good way to cut the cost of a unit’s annual functions, such as holiday parties or organizational day. However, as seen in this article, there are rules about what can and cannot be done with fundraisers.



# 2011

*From front page*

homeland by the agree- ment’s 2011 deadline, he said.

Mullen said he is aware that President-elect Barack Obama has said he would speed up the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. If ordered, the U.S. mil- itary could speed up the withdrawal, he said, but added that he would like for any such actions to be based on conditions in Iraq.

“It’s doable,” Mullen said. “It’s a very signifi- cant footprint and a very sizeable force, but we’ve been moving in and out of this theater for a long peri- od of time, and we have the capacity and the capability to do it.”

Mullen added, “I cer- tainly understand there are other options. It’s some- thing that we look at all the time. But ... from the military’s perspec- tive, I think it’s best to be conditions-based.”

The agreement also calls for American forces to be out of Iraqi cities

and towns by the end of 2009. The American mil- itary is already out of the towns and cities in most of Iraq. Coalition forces are in overwatch in the provinces that have returned to pro- vincial Iraqi control.

“This is consistent with how we have moved, once an area has been turned over to the Iraqis for secu- rity,” Mullen said.

Two areas where there may be problems are in Baghdad and Mosul where most of the fighting is and there is greater need to train Iraqi security forces, Mullen said.

“The Iraqi security forc- es being able to provide for their own security is one of the big keys to a suc- cessful transition,” he said. “We’re focused on that like a laser.”

Mullen said he is com- fortable with the training timetable.

“That [training] mission has been incredibly well executed,” he said. “The pace is a good pace, and I think that the pace will more than suffice for what needs to be, in terms of Iraqi security forces taking over totally in their own security in the future.”

# ATEF

*From front page*

The workload of auto- motive testing at ATC makes it the best location for such a facility.

“Last year, in fiscal year 2008, ATC ran almost one million miles of automot- ive testing, mostly to sup- port technology insertion for such things as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protec- ted vehicles to help our service members who are deployed in harm’s way,” he said.

The tri-oval-shaped track will be the “first full- spectrum contiguous, sus- tained-high-speed test track” at any Department of Defense installation.

Early concepts for such a facility emerged in 1985, when the Army recog- nized the need for high- speed testing of tracked and wheeled combat vehi- cles. Planning for the facil- ity that ultimately evolved began more recently, and Maryland’s congressional delegation helped secure the funding needed to make it a reality.

Rooney said the ATEF will enable high-speed testing of a wide array of vehicles, some heav- ily armored and weighing as much as 119 tons. The project has been a joint effort of the Maryland congressional delegation, DoD, the Department of



Photo by ERIKA JORDAN, ATC  
*Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski, one of the congressional leaders who helped the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center acquire funding for the Automotive Technology Evaluation Center, talks to the ATC commander, Col. John Rooney Nov. 13.*

the Army, the APG team, and the Army Corps of Engineers, he added. The Army Alliance, a vocal civilian organization that serves as an advocate for the military at APG, was also a member of the team working to bring the proj- ect to fruition.

During the past three summers, troops from the Marine Corps Reserve and Maryland and Delaware National Guard worked to prepare the site for con- struction. The work not only aided the construction project but also provid-

ed training for the troops doing it, said Rooney. Coordination with those units enabled “locally sta- tioned engineer troops to train on required criti- cal construction, logistics and leadership tasks that they may not have other- wise been able to do in this environment, and that has resulted in today being able to transition into major construction in rap- id fashion,” he said.

Mikulski, who played a key role in securing needed funding along with others in the Mary-

land congressional dele- gation, repeatedly touched on the theme of biparti- san support for America’s men and women in uni- form during her remarks at the earth-turning ceremo- ny, noting that she and her colleagues “checked polit- ical party hats at the door” when it came to support- ing the project.

Although a project that can create jobs is good for Maryland, the primary rea- son it received enthusiastic support from Maryland’s congressional representa- tives is its vital support for Soldiers, Mikulski said.

“We’ve got to do every- thing we can to support the troops,” she said, adding that “threats are everywhere and IEDs [improvised explosive devices] are ubiquitous.”

Col. Peter Mueller, commander of the Army Corps of Engineers Bal- timore District, echoed the theme of teamwork in support of Soldiers who risk their lives for their country.

“Two years ago, when I was talking to Colonel Rooney about the projects that we were doing for him and this particular project, we talked about the sig- nificant impact that this was going to have for the troops who were out in the field,” he said.

He and others who wear a military uniform have experienced firsthand what can happen when a tactical military vehicle does not perform as well as expect- ed because it couldn’t be tested as it should have been, he said.



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# First annual CFC book, movie fair, basketball game a success

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
and **YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Combined Federal Campaign brought fun and games to its annual campaign with a book and movie fair being held at Top of the Bay thru Dec. 12 and a charity basketball game at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center Nov. 19.

Organizers said this year they decided to do something different to raise money for charity.

Nelder Smothers, CFC administrative assistant, who works at the APG library, suggested raising money by holding a book and movie fair. Requests for donations were advertised in the *APG News* and e-mails, which resulted in large donations by the APG community.

The book and movie fair is currently being held at the CFC headquarters in the basement (also known as Down Under) of Top of the Bay, building 30.

"We were very lucky to have so much space this year for our CFC headquarters," said Nancy Sewell, who is this year's CFC chairperson for APG. "We wanted to make good use of the space."

Sewell said that the book and movie fair was originally scheduled to take place Nov. 13 and 14, but due to the large amount of donations, the CFC staff decided to continue the fair until Dec. 12.

"The amount of donations surprised us," she said. "There were more than twenty-five donors who responded to our request."

She said that Soldiers and civilians from the Joint Personal Effects Depot have donated 143 books and 12 movies."

"One gentleman donated most of his late wife's private library of three-hundred books, all in 'read once' condition," Sewell continued. "Another donor gave [us] more than four years of the 'Shonen Jump' series, which sold before lunchtime on the first day of the sale. All told, we have received more than eleven-

hundred books and thirty VHS or DVD movies."

Sewell said that the CFC staff will accept book donations until Dec. 4. Receipts are given in case any donors would like to take a tax donation for their gift. Sewell said there are a variety of books, including romance, thrillers, self-help and children's books.

Paperback books are \$.50 and hardcover books are \$1.

"You won't find hardcover and paperback books at this price in stores," she said.

Stop by Top of the Bay's Down Under, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday through Dec. 12.

"Add to your personal libraries, or purge some books you no longer want, all for a great cause," Sewell said.

For more information, see the announcement in Post Shorts in this week's *APG News*.

## CFC hosts first charity basketball game

All in the name of charity, Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 143rd Ordnance Battalion squared off against Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion with the 16th coming out on top, 41-31.

CFC staff members, led by Sewell, sold snacks and refreshments and held a shooting contest in which contestants paid \$1 for each attempt to sink a basket from half-court during the half-time break.

Sewell said funds raised would count toward each unit's campaign goals and that the teams would select from the 2008 CFC book which charity they wanted the funds to go to.

"All monies raised by CFC will be split between the selected charities of each team," she said.

"One thing they told us [during pre-campaign training] was to try to put fun in CFC," she added. "Thank goodness we had good [noncommissioned officers] to help us out."

She thanked 2nd Lt. Ricardo Lacue and Sgt. 1st Class Enrique Sanchez of Company C 16th as well as the

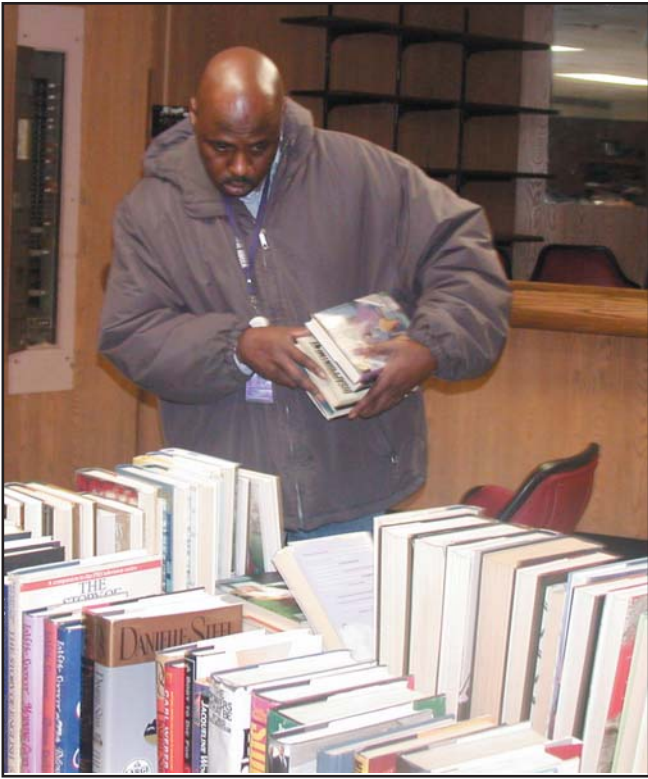


Photo by RACHEL PONDER  
Earl Linwood Halsey Jr., contamination avoidance computer engineer from the Joint Program Management Nuclear Biological Chemical Contamination Avoidance, shops for books at the Combine Federal Campaign's first book and movie fair held at Aberdeen Proving Ground's CFC headquarters in the lower level of Top of the Bay. All proceeds from the book and movie fair will be donated to Catholic Charities, which help the homeless and needy.

team coaches Staff Sgt. Isaac Rivera, 16th and Staff Sgt. Anthony Redmond, 143rd.

Sewell's 9-year-old granddaughter, Kierra Sewell, also helped out, selling Girl Scout cookies at the snack table.

Also assisting CFC staff members was CFC advisor Michael (Mikey) Graziano, Directorate of Information Management.

A former CFC chairperson, Graziano will again chair the campaign in 2009. He said through his interpreter, Mary Silver, that the campaign kicks off in early September 2009 and that he hopes to hold a charity golf tournament.

Although \$400,000 is the 2008 goal, the campaign would like to raise \$450,000 since it reached \$441,000 last year, Graziano said.

He said that with the increase in personnel due to base realignment and closure, they hope to raise even more money by 2011 even though most of the Soldiers will be gone.

Graziano presented CFC coins to coaches and players at the end of the game.

Smothers said the game was originally planned to

pit an APG team against a team from Fort Meade but that the Fort Meade team had to back out due to scheduling problems.

"We're grateful to Captain Nicole Starr from Edgewood [Area] and her husband Captain Jeremiah Starr from Aberdeen [Area] for providing the two teams," Smothers said.

The 143rd also sent a busload of Soldiers to support the effort.

The two coaches said their teams enjoyed the outing.

"We put this team together two hours ago," Rivera said. "They're all students and volunteers. And they're so good that we can't wait until basketball season."

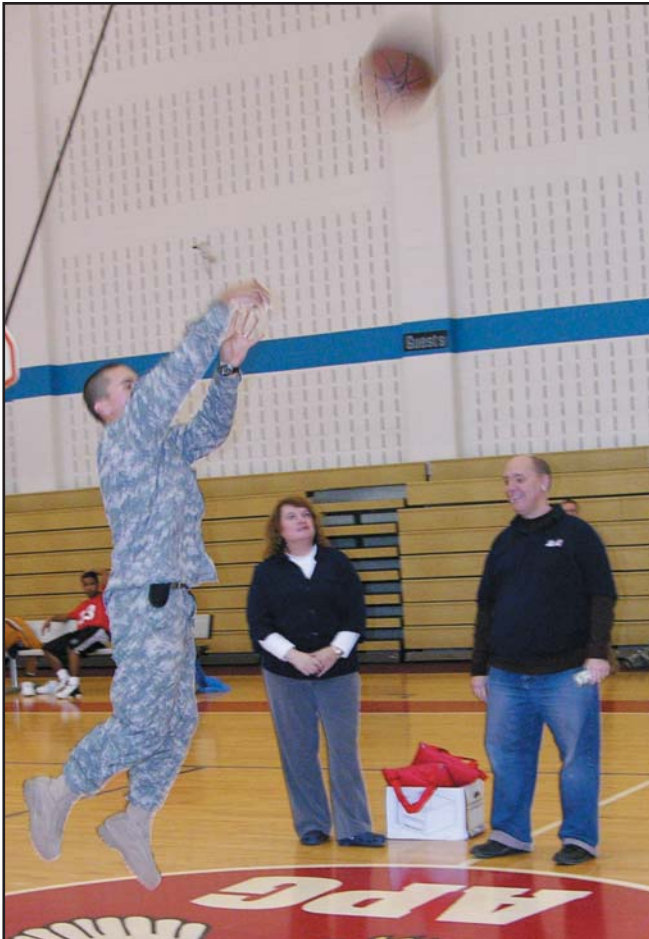
Redmond said his team was made up of students who were "just now getting here."

"They said they'd go wherever we were going so we brought a bunch," he said. "They listened real well even though this was different for a lot of them," he said. "We're just glad they had fun."

Pvt. Thomas Mattice, Company C 16th, won the half-time shooting contest.



Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON  
From left, Jonathan Havens, 33, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, grabs a rebound from HHC 16th Ordnance Battalion players helped by teammate William Wynn, 30, during the Combined Federal Campaign charity basketball game at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center Nov. 19. The 16th won the game 41-31.



Michael Graziano, CFC advisor, right, and interpreter Mary Silver, center, watch as Pvt. Alejandro Delossantos goes for a shot from mid-court during the half-time shooting challenge.

# Commentary: CFC helps United Way agencies

By  
**ROBIN SPURDLE**  
United Way of Cecil County

At a time when so many people are looking for help, isn't it nice to know that your contribution to United Way of Cecil County helps provide funding to 32 health and human service agencies in Cecil County.

This is the story of one woman who was helped by a United Way agency.

Last January, in the coldest part of the winter, a middle-aged woman was among the many who sought refuge in the winter rotating emergency shelter program. She was petite, quiet, and obviously confused – suffering from untreated mental illness. She was also very cold and grateful to be able to sleep in a warm place after a long period of sleeping outside and desperately seeking shelter.

The immediate help she received was a warm safe place to sleep and hot nourishing meals. The longer term assistance was in



the friendship of supportive volunteers.

She is now in transitional housing and is doing well. She has a job, a very happy countenance, and is deeply content with her progress to a new life. Most amazing is her prior confusion and mental illness are remarkably better.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to have a good life, a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a Family through retirement and good health.

That's why United Way of Cecil County is working to advance the common good by funding programs that improve the quality of life for neighbors, friends, co-workers and Families.

Our goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. Change is impossible without the continued support of individuals just like you. Be a part of the change by making a donation to United Way of Cecil County using #52559 in your contributors guide.

The needs in our community continue to grow, and we need your help now more than ever. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow. That's what it means to Live United.Give.Advocate.Volunteer.

For more information visit Web site, [www.unit-edwaycecil.org](http://www.unit-edwaycecil.org).

## CFC campaign exceeds \$270,000

APG CFC Office

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Combined Federal Campaign exceeded the \$270,000 mark with 785 of the goal of 3,000 donors contacted.

The CFC Office would like to congratulate Army Team C4ISR, the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command North, the Directorate of Human Resources, Mission and Installation Contracting Command/APG DOC and the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band.

In addition to complimentary gifts for CFC contributions, those who donate to the 2008 campaign also are eligible to participate in three raffle drawings for additional prizes.

The Oct. 30 raffle was for a crystal glass globe ball, 1st place; a CD case, 2nd place; a CFC pen, 3rd place; and CFC pen, 4th place for first raffle. The second raffle, held Nov. 26, was for a crystal glass globe ball, 1st place; a CFC frame, 2nd place and a CFC pen, 3rd place. Congratulations go to Sandy Schiller, Ilmans Celmins, Francis Bartosik, Cindy Sheppard, Brad Hoskins, Scott Bernhard and Richard Mayers.

To participate in the raffle drawings, place contributor's name, organization and phone number on the back of the tear-off portion of the contribution form and submit it to a CFC key worker.

Raffle tickets can also be picked up either thru a campaign coordinator or at building 30, Top of the Bay, Down Under.

The final raffle for similar gifts will be 4 p.m., Dec. 15.

## APG closing announcements

If the installation is closed, is experiencing a delay in opening or if liberal leave is in effect due to weather or other emergency situations, check for postings on the local television and radio stations, WAPG-TV Channel 21 (on Aberdeen Proving Ground) or call 410-278-SNOW (7669).

A recorded telephone message will

contain updated information and should begin at about 5 a.m.

Announcements about federal offices in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG; listen for those that name APG specifically.

For general information, call the APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147.



# Community Notes

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 6  
CHRISTMAS  
COOKIE SALE**

The Havre de Grace United Methodist Church located on 101 South Union Avenue, will hold its annual Christmas Cookie Sale, 9 a.m. to noon. Assorted decorated cookies will be sold by the pound. Proceeds benefit United Methodist Church mission projects. For more information, call Alice Perry, 410-939-1341.

**BASKET BINGO**

The Good Shepherd Catholic School, located on 810 Aiken Avenue, Perryville, will hold a basket bingo 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Two early bird cash games start at 6:45 pm. Tickets cost \$12 per person for a 20 game packet. Extra packets cost \$5 each. Food and drinks will be available to purchase. Bring a non-perishable food item for a free ticket for a special drawing.

For more information or tickets, call Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332 or the Good Shepherd School, 410-642-6265.

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 7  
ALL DAY BINGO**

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit of Susquehanna Post 135 located on 300 Cherry Street, Perryville, will hold All Day Bingo, 12:30 p.m. Doors open 11 a.m., early bird games 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$25 per person and includes 50 games (all paper cards), meal and free coffee. A 50/50 raffle will be held for early birds. No one under 18 years of age is allowed in the Bingo Hall. No smoking is allowed.

For more information,

call 410-642-2771.

**NATURE TALES - SNOW**

Come listen to some stories, learn new songs and move like the animals. This program will be held at 1 p.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 10  
WEDNESDAY WEE  
WONDERS IN  
WINTER**

Join the naturalist and her wee one to explore Leight Park's wintry world through stories, songs, live animals and outdoor exploration. This free program will be held 10 to 11 a.m. for ages up to 4. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 11  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
MILITARY  
COMPTROLLERS**

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Chesapeake Chapter, will hold a Happy Holidays Get-Together, starting at noon, at Baldwin's Seafood Restaurant, Joppa. Lunch costs \$25.95 per person and includes choice of Crab Cake or Chicken Alfredo. Entrée comes with cream of crab soup, baked potato, salad, coffee or iced tea, rice pudding or ice cream. Everyone who attends will receive a special gift. There will be a gift exchange called "The Gift Game," a bas-

ket raffle, door prizes and cash donations towards military Families in need.

For more information, call Rhonda Rielly, 410-306-1333 or Pat O'Shea, 410-436-4262.

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
AND SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 12,  
13 AND 14  
EXTREME  
MAKEOVER  
HOME EDITION  
CHRISTMAS OPEN  
HOUSE**

Join the Luther Family for light hors d'oeuvres and desserts at the Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program, Inc. Christmas Open house 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12; 2 to 8 p.m., Dec. 13; and 2 to 8 p.m., Dec. 14.

Freedom Hills has been providing therapeutic horseback riding to the physically, mentally and emotionally challenged in the Tri-state Area of Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Tickets cost \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door. All proceeds to benefit Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program, Inc.

Freedom Hills is located at 55 Rolling Hills Ranch Lane, Port Deposit.

For more information or for directions, visit [www.freedomhills.org/contact.html](http://www.freedomhills.org/contact.html) or call 410-378-3817.

**FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 12  
LATE NIGHT HIKE  
WITH YOUR TIKE**

Give the kids some caffeine and come on a late night hike. Join a naturalist for an exploration of the estuary's trails in the dark. Bring a thermos or mug, hot chocolate will be provided. This program will be held 8 to 9:30 p.m. for ages 3 to adult, 3 to 14 with an

adult. The cost is \$1 per person or \$3 per Family and registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 13  
BREAKFAST WITH  
SANTA**

The Mt. Ararat Lodge, Nelson J. Briggs Demolay Chapter located on 136 East Gordon Street, Bel Air, will hold Breakfast with Santa, 8 to 11 a.m. There will be gifts for the children from Santa and a gift table available for holiday shopping. Proceeds from gift table supports muscular dystrophy and demolay youth.

Breakfast costs \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. Photos taken with Santa cost \$6 each and include card and envelope.

Proceeds to benefit boys demolay youth organization.

For more information, to purchase tickets or to reserve a table, call 410-420-1002.

**HOLIDAY  
PAPERMAKING**

Create festive handmade papers using natural and recycled items and wrap those last minute gifts or craft holiday greeting cards. This program will be held 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 12 to adult. The cost is \$5 and registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**BACKYARD BIRD  
BUFFET**

Need something to

**SCHOOL LIAISON**

**Tell a high school student:  
Summer apprenticeships in  
science, engineering available**

The Science and Engineering Apprentice Program offers select high school students a unique opportunity to explore and pursue careers in science and technology. SEAP students spend eight weeks each summer working full-time on unclassified tasks. Under the direction of Naval Research Laboratory scientists and engineers, students actively engage in important research, planning sessions, special program seminars, and writing and presentation of a final research paper. They earn a stipend of \$1,500 (\$1,550 for returning students).

The program is administered by the American Society for Engineering Education, NRL hosts students at the main site in Washington, D.C., at Stennis Space Center in Miss., and at the Marine Meteorology Division in Monterey, Cal.

For information and to apply on-line, visit <http://seap.asee.org/>. Applications are being accepted now, and must be submitted no later than 5:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Jan. 26. For specific information about NRL's program call 202-767-2365 (D.C.), 228-688-5328 (SSC), or 831-656-4794 (Monterey).

**Attention 8th grade parents  
Dec. 5 last day for HCPS  
Magnet Program applications**

Applications for magnet programs at Harford County Public Schools, including the Science & Math Academy at Aberdeen High School, Harford Technical High School and Global Studies/International Baccalaureate Programme at Edgewood High School are due Friday, Dec. 5.

Students in the 8th grade currently should see <http://www.hcps.org/magnet/> for more information and applications.

For more information on any APG school related topic, contact Eileen Campbell, 410-278-2857 or e-mail [eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil](mailto:eileen.campbell@apg.army.mil).

brighten up the backyard? How about a handmade birdfeeder? Join a naturalist for a short discussion of bird habitat and food then build a feeder for the back yard. This program will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 4 to adult, 4 to 14 with an adult. The cost is \$4 and registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

*(Editors Note: More calendar events can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Community Notes.)*

Center, 410-278-4331, [teri.wright@us.army.mil](mailto:teri.wright@us.army.mil).

**Last call for  
applications  
for USO-Metro  
Holiday Hotel  
Program Dec. 5**

The deadline for applications for the USO of Metropolitan Washington Holiday Hotel Program is Dec. 5.

Active duty service members (who are on duty between Dec. 20 through 30,) are provided room nights donated by area hotels for visiting Family members of military personnel who are unable to go home for the holidays. Family members must live outside a 200-mile radius; and enlisted (E-6 and below) have first priority.

For more information, call Dawn Fincham or Lindsay Raymond, 703-805-4277.

**Blue Cross/  
Shield visits APG**

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit APG Dec. 9. The representative will be available 9 to 11:30 a.m. in building 305, room 211 and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in building E-4520, Chemical Demilitarization Training

## Vouchers

*From front page*

"We wanted them to have a meal they would eat and also to feel they were getting a helping hand, not a hand-out. We also wanted them in when the Commissary was not open and to do it close enough to the

## Authorized exception to dual compensation laws

Current appropriated and Nonappropriated Fund employees are eligible to keep their full-time position and also be employed as an NAF flexible employee for the following hard-to-fill positions:

- Bartender, NA-7405-03
- Cook, NA -7404-04
- Custodial worker, NA -3566-02
- Custodial worker (leader), NL-3566-02
- Food service worker, NA-7408-02
- Gardener, NA -5003-04
- Motor vehicle operator, NA-5703-07
- Operations assistant, NF-1101-01
- Recreation assistant (aerobic), NF-0189-02
- Waiter/waitress (trainee), NA-7420-01
- Waiter, NA -7420-03

To apply for the above positions, visit Web site <http://acpol.army.mil/employment/naf.htm> for job listing and <http://cpol.army.mil/library/naf/job-kit> to apply.

Facility, Edgewood Area, to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call Teri Wright, 410-278-4331.

**Send mail  
to wounded  
Soldiers**

The American Red Cross will allow the public to send holiday greeting cards that aren't addressed to a particular Soldier. The cards will be screened, sorted and distributed to military hospitals and bases nationally and overseas in time for the holidays.

holiday so their purchases would go toward their Thanksgiving meal."

He praised the chapel congregations, the Commissary and association members for their dedication to our Soldiers and their Families.

"Everybody in here is in the same boat. We know the importance of providing for your Family, and we just

The public can send their greeting cards, with adequate postage and a return address to: Holiday Mail for Heroes, P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456.

To speed delivery, mailers should not send care packages, money or any inserts, including glitter. Send cards through Dec. 10.

Cards can also be downloaded from the American Red Cross Web site to print out and send to the program's address.

For more information, visit <http://www.redcross.org/email/saf>.

wanted to help," he said.

Commissary cashiers Lesley Ashley, Brenda Conner, Mathe DeWitt, Maritza Rivera, Stacey Taylor and Tina Hurst said they were happy to be a part of the operation.

"It means giving back for what they are doing for all of us," Hurst said.

"We're just supporting their efforts," added

## KUSAHC closes for the holidays

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed for the KUSAHC staff Family holiday party, noon until 4:30 p.m., Dec. 11

Patients should plan accordingly for any medication needs.

Since there is no Emergency Room at KUSAHC, call 911 for true emergencies.

For medical services needed after hours, weekends or federal holidays, contact Staff Duty, 410-278-1725. The Staff Duty Officer will coordinate patient's care with the Medical Officer of the Day.

To avoid Point of Service copayment charges, patient will need authorization and/or a referral to go to any urgency clinic. Emergency Rooms do not require a referral.

## CFC book, movie fair continuing

Due to popular demand, the first annual Combined Federal Campaign book and movie fair will continue through Dec. 12.

The fair is located in building 30, Top of the Bay/Down Under.

Soft cover books will sell for \$.50, hard covers for \$1 or slightly more. Movies, VHS and DVD,

Commissary store manager Tammy Spickler. "This is all due to the sergeant major [Rodriguez]. This is the second year we've done this, and we're just happy to help."

Voucher recipients expressed their gratitude.

"I was surprised by it," said Staff Sgt. Elissa Hoston, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 16th

are \$1. There are several hundred books, many mystery or romance, nearly new. Gatorade, water, health bars and chocolate cookies are also for sale.

Profits from the sales will go to the Catholic Charities, which helps the needy.

Anyone who enjoys both reading and bargain prices should stop by between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. For more information, call CFC, 410-278-9913/9917.

## CPR Classes

Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Services offer CPR classes on APG.

Two classes will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month.

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Conference Center, building E-4810, Feb. 18, April 15, Aug. 26, Oct. 21 and Dec. 16.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Theater Jan. 21, March 18, May 20, July 15 and Nov. 18.

Class size will be limited to 30 participants and will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, call Raymond Campbell, 410-306-0566, or e-mail [raymond](mailto:raymond).

Ordnance Battalion and the single parent of three.

"It means a lot because it shows how Soldiers help Soldiers," she said.

"We're very thankful," said Staff Sgt. William Beck, an instructor with Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, as he watched volunteer Staff Sgt. Jaramillo Cesar, 1st Area Medical Laboratory,

[b.campbell@us.army.mil](mailto:b.campbell@us.army.mil).

## Free American Sign Language class offered

A free American Sign Language class will be taught 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday, through Dec. 16. The class will be held at Edgewood Area building E-2100 Conference Center/Classroom. Sign language will be taught for beginners and more advanced students.

Students are welcome to bring their lunch and eat it during class.

To receive credit for the class, students may submit form DD 1556. Students must complete at least 10 classes in order to receive credit.

For more information or to register, call BethAnn Cameron, 410-436-7175.

## Thrift Shop closes for holidays

The APG Thrift Shop will close its doors for the holiday at 2 p.m., Dec. 11 and will reopen 11 a.m., Jan. 7.

The entire staff thanks everyone for their patronage throughout the year so that the community can be better served through donations from the shop.

*(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Shorts.)*

load groceries into his van.

"This is absolutely wonderful," added Beck's wife, Kelly, who accompanied him to the store with their 3-year-old son, Trey.

"This will make a huge difference for us especially considering how the economy is," she said. "It allows us to have a Thanksgiving we wouldn't normally have."



Story by  
**BOB VAN ELSBERG**  
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety  
Center

USACRC experts believe this is a great way for a novice or non-rider — much less an experienced rider — to evaluate the

The trainer is not only of value to new riders, it can also polish the skills of those who have been away from riding for a while, such as redeploying Soldiers. When these “rusty” riders get on the trainer, two things typically happen. The first is known as the “*déjà vu* factor,” which is when riders, after they’ve experienced traf-

Another benefit of the trainer is its ability to put riders inside other vehicles so they can see themselves as other drivers see them. For example, coaches can put riders inside a tractor-trailer to show them how the vehicle's blind spots can hide them from the driver's view. That change of perspective can be sobering.

For more information on training, contact the Driving Task Force at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, 334-255-3034, DSN 558-3034 or e-mail [driving-taskforce@crc.army.mil](mailto:driving-taskforce@crc.army.mil).



*B. Hard brake and release before hitting the water, hold wheel tightly and steer straight ahead.*

**Answer A.** I wouldn't recommend your choice of "hard brake and turn left to avoid hitting the water," not at 55 mph. You should "hard brake and release before hitting the water, hold tightly and steer straight ahead." Here, speed is the critical factor. If you try to swerve from hitting the water and if you drive straight through. You need to slow down to keep from hydroplaning and ensure your wheels are straight so when you come out of it, you'll be headed in the direction you want to go. Check out Answer B.

**Answer B.** Good choice. Your decision to "hard brake and release before hitting the water, hold wheel tightly and steer straight" is the thing to do. At the speed you're going the car will hydroplane. The tires will float on the water and won't have contact with the road surface. This occurs when your tire inflation pressure, the speed of your car, the depth of the water on the road, and the condition/design of the tread are combined in such a way as to cause your tire to lose contact with the road. When this happens, you have no control of your vehicle. There's a formula that will tell you when you'll have total hydroplaning: compute the square root of your tire pressure and multiply it by 10.35. Partial hydroplaning may occur at lower speeds. The depth of water needed to hydroplane is dependent upon whether or not water can escape from beneath your tires. Many of today's tires are designed with good "escape" routes, but for practical purposes, if your tire pressure is 32 psi, you would hydroplane at about 59.5 mph, if 36 psi hydroplaning would occur at about 62.1 mph.

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

**PX**

**DENTAC****KUSAHC**

He said that the pharmacy and the clinic will now be



## **Housing**

Pat Hector from the APG Housing Office said

**FMWR**

Lockhart said that if anyone has questions related to FMWR, they can call her at 410-278-3904 or visit **[www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com)**, which is updated daily.

**Safety Office**

Jenelle Ferguson from  
the Installation Safety

## Chapel

“Some of our new classes being offered through SKIES are toddler art, toddler dance, and ice skating lessons.”

For more information call

Umbarger, 410-278-4589.

### ***School Liaison***

Eileen Campbell, APG's school liaison, told attendees that free online tutoring can be found through Student Online Achievement Resources (SOAR), to ease the transition of military Families by providing resources to assist with the challenges military children face. Students can go to [www.soarathome.org](http://www.soarathome.org), where they can take a test on state learning standards and be directed to a tutorial that will improve their skills where needed. Through this program, parents can access educational resources to support their child's math and reading skill development by registering for a free account at [www.soarathome.org](http://www.soarathome.org), and monitor the progress of their child from anywhere in the world. SOAR is a partnership between Military Impacted Schools Association, The Princeton Review, SkillsTutor and the University of Northern Iowa.

## Open forum

Rodriguez also stated that when people leave comments on the Interactive Customer Evaluation system, also known as "ICE" system, they need to leave specifics and contact numbers.

Rodriguez added that he would like to implement a supervisor and employee of the year award based on responses sent through ICE.

Rodriguez added, that "pets are the responsibility of the pet owner. If the owner cannot control their pet, then the pet will not be on the installation."

### From the commander

He said that in the Aberdeen Area a RAPID gate will open for construction on Aberdeen Boulevard which means that only construction workers with a RAPID Gate identification card will be allowed through the gate.

Weissman concluded the meeting by asking attendees to support APG events.

"We have to make an effort to improve community events, and to raise attendance, by word of mouth which is the best way of advertising. We need everyone to help support these events," he said.

Weissman said that there will be no Well-Being meeting in December due to the Christmas holiday.

"I wish you and your Family a happy and safe holiday season," Weissman said.

The next Well-Being meeting will be held 9:30 a.m. in the Edgewood Area Chapel 9:30 a.m., Jan. 15.





FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

FMWR facilities holiday hours

ACTIVITY	MON 22-Dec	TUE 23-Dec	WED 24-Dec	THU 25-Dec	FRI 26-Dec	SAT 27-Dec	SUN 28-Dec
ARTS & CRAFTS EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ATHLETIC CENTER	5 a.m.-8 p.m.	5 a.m.-8 p.m.	6 a.m.-2 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
AUTO CRAFTS CENTER	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
ODR RENTAL CENTER	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
FITNESS CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
HOYLE GYM/FITNESS CTR	5 a.m.-8 p.m.	5 a.m.-8 p.m.	6 a.m. - 2 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
LIBRARY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
MWR LEISURE TRAVEL	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SOUTH SIDE GRILL (Lunch)	11:30 - 1 p.m.	11:30 - 1 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
TOP OF THE BAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
BOWLING	11 - 3 p.m.	11 - 3 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	5 - 10 p.m.	1 - 10 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.
RUGGLES	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	CLOSED	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk
EXTON	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
CHILD,YOUTH & SCHOOL SERVICES+	Regular hours	Regular hours	Reduced hours*	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ARMY COMMUNITY SERV	Regular hours	Regular hours	Regular hours	CLOSED	Regular hours	CLOSED	CLOSED

ACTIVITY	MON 29-Dec	TUE 30-Dec	WED 31-Dec	THU 1-Jan	FRI 2-Jan	SAT 3-Jan	SUN 4-Jan
ARTS & CRAFTS EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ATHLETIC CENTER	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	6 a.m.-2 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	10a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
AUTO CRAFTS CENTER	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
ODR RENTAL CENTER	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
FITNESS CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
HOYLE GYM/FITNESS CTR	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	6 a.m.-2 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
LIBRARY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
MWR LEISURE TRAVEL	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SOUTH SIDE GRILL (Lunch)	11:30 - 1 p.m.	11:30 - 1 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
TOP OF THE BAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
BOWLING	11 - 3 p.m.	11 - 3 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	11 - 11 p.m.	1 - 11 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.
RUGGLES	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	CLOSED	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk
EXTON	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
CHILD,YOUTH & SCHOOL SERVICES+	Reduced hours*	Reduced hours*	Reduced hours*	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ARMY COMMUNITY SERV	Regular hours	Regular hours	Regular hours	CLOSED	Regular hours	CLOSED	CLOSED

All hours are subject to change. Visit [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com) for the most up-to-date hours.  
+CYSS Facilities: Child Development Centers, Youth Centers/School-Age Services programs and Family Child Care homes.  
\*Reduced hours request based on historical data collected from attendance reports and parent surveys.

FMWR hosts Holiday Arts, Crafts Show today

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a Holiday Arts and Crafts Show, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 4, at Top of the Bay. This event is free and anyone who has access to the installation can attend. “We are taking vendors from outside the gate,” said

Linda Edwards, “but they have to register and obtain a gate pass the day of the event. Ben Michalski, a professional photographer and the creator of the digital photo-serigraph, will be featuring his photoserigraphs for sale, and showcasing his images of APG’s tanks and Harford

County landmarks. His ‘fine’ art photography hangs from The Governor’s Mansion to Applebee’s Restaurant to Columbian Banks. A Navy and Army veteran, he has photographed people and places in 12 different countries, on three continents and has more than 30 years

of experience behind a camera. “The Holiday Craft Show provides a great opportunity for members of the community to get a head start on their holiday shopping. Top of the Bay will be decorated and our staff looks forward to sharing some special treats

and entertainment. Stop by for shopping, food, fun and live entertainment,” Edwards said. “Additionally, stop by to see what crafts your fellow employees have to offer. There will be jewelry, Longaberger Baskets, handmade quilted handbags, framed photographs

and much more for sale,” she added. Vendors who want to participate can register at <http://www.apgmwr.com/Store/artscraftsvendors.html> to secure their table for \$25. For more information, call Top of the Bay, 410-278-3062.

Activities/Events

**Hoop shoot free throw contest**  
The Elks National Free Throw Contest “Hoop Shoot” will be held 4 p.m., Jan. 3, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. Participation is free to all boys and girls ages 8 thru 13 (as of April 1) through local, district, state, regional and national levels. The program builds character while promoting integrity, hard work, quality Family time and good sportsmanship. Sign up the day of the event at 3 p.m.

**ACS hosts meeting of Family Information Network**

Army Community Service hosts a Family Information Network meeting 6 to 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in building 2754. The next meeting is Dec. 9. This support group is designed to assist military members who have Family members with special needs. Its goals are to provide a supportive network as well as assist with community resources. For more information, call 410-278-2420.  
**MWR daily bus trips to Atlantic City**  
Roll the bones on daily trips to Atlantic City, N.J. FMWR Leisure Travel Services offers daily bus ser-

vice to Trump Taj Mahal Casino. Cost of the trip to is \$45 per person with \$25 back in cash and a \$5 buffet coupon. Only for ages 21 and over. The bus will leave Vitali’s Restaurant, Best Western in Edgewood at 9 a.m. and return at 9 p.m. For more information, contact FMWR Leisure Travel Services, AA Recreation Center, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail [apgr-usag-mwr-liesure-travel@conus.army.mil](mailto:apgr-usag-mwr-liesure-travel@conus.army.mil).  
**Holiday golf sale at Ruggles**  
Stop by Ruggles Pro

Shop through Dec. 24 and save on a great selection of apparel and equipment. The sale includes 50 percent off of all Ashworth apparel; 40 percent off select group of Footjoy Outerwear; and 50 percent off select group of men’s short-sleeved shirts. All regular priced irons, wedges and bags are 10 percent off. Gift certificates for lessons are a great stocking stuffer. For more information, e-mail [david.correll@us.army.mil](mailto:david.correll@us.army.mil). Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com). All jobs for Aberdeen Proving Ground are listed at <http://acpol.army.mil/employment/naf.htm> or check out AAFES Jobs link <http://odin.aafes.com/employment/> for additional job opportunities.

Grab a bite on the way to work  
Bowling Center now serving breakfast

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Bowling Center, building 2342, is now serving breakfast 7 to 11 a.m., Monday thru Friday. Menu items include bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich \$2.25; bacon, egg and cheese bagel \$2.50; Steak, egg and cheese sandwich \$2.75; steak, egg and cheese bagel \$3.50; plain or cinnamon-raisin bagels \$1.25; chocolate, chocolate chip, banana nut or blueberry muffins \$2.35; hash browns \$.50; and coffee \$.70 medium and \$1.40 large. Subject to change. Orders can be eat-in, carry out or made in advance by calling 410-278-4041 after 7 a.m.

SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a SKIES Unlimited class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. Open to all DoD ID card holders. For an appointment, e-mail [stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil](mailto:stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil).  
**Drawing and sketching**  
Drawing and sketching classes will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, Jan. 12 through March 12, for ages 10 to 15 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. No class on Jan. 19. Students will explore the concepts of value, proportion, perspective, composition, and foreshortening in this drawing class. Class topics include materials used in drawing and sketching, memory drawing, contour drawing,

grid drawing, tonal drawing and matting of completed works. Students are required to

have an 11” x 14” drawing pad. Class costs \$120 per student for eight weeks.

CWF 2008 Calendar

**Dec. 6 -** Happy holidays from the Civilian Welfare Fund  
Join the CWF for ice skating 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. at Ice World. This event is free to APG military, civilians, contractors, retirees and their Families. A limited number of tickets are available, so make reservations in advance. Skate rentals are not included.  
**Dec. 13 -** ‘Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular’ in New York City  
A favorite among many, starring the famous Rockettes, this trip includes time for shopping, sightseeing and lunch after the 11:30 a.m. show. See the “Big Apple” decorated for Christmas. The price is \$150 and includes a ticket for the show and charter bus transportation. Due to the overwhelming response, additional tickets and a second bus is now available. Be sure to call as soon as possible.  
For more information or to make reservations, call the Civilian Welfare Fund Office, 410-273-2075 or e-mail Patti Harkins at [patti.harkins@us.army.mil](mailto:patti.harkins@us.army.mil).

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials  
Building 2342

**Week of Dec. 1**  
Special #1: Bacon, lettuce and tomato sub with french fries, cookie and soda for \$5.25.  
Special #2: Hot dogs with french fries, cookie and soda for \$4.95.

**Week of Dec. 8**  
Special #1: Egg salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and soda for \$3.75.  
Special #2: Chicken tender sub with potato chips, cookie and soda for \$6.95.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.







# Health Notes

## Commentary: HIV/AIDS in the workplace

By **BETHANN CAMERON**  
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Human Immunodeficiency Virus is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS.

HIV is spread by unprotected sex (vaginal, oral or anal) with an infected person, or by sharing needles and/or syringes with someone who is infected. It can pass from an infected woman to her unborn child, at birth or through breast-feeding. Although most blood is tested for HIV, it can be spread through blood transfusions.

HIV destroys the immune system, reducing a person's ability to fight infections and certain cancers. A person may have the virus and have no signs or symptoms for several years. Symptoms of HIV can imitate other illnesses.

The only way to know if a

person has HIV is to get an HIV test. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people get tested as a routine part of their medical care.

Many people are living with HIV. In 2008, the CDC estimated that 56,300 people were newly infected with HIV. Through June 2008, there were 2,815 Soldiers identified with HIV; 655 of them were still serving. Through June 2008, there were 2,877 Department of the Army civilians with HIV infection. The Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps also have personnel who are HIV infected. The Veterans Administration cares for more than 22,000 HIV-infected veterans, most aged 40 to 60.

You may be working with someone at your duty station or office who is HIV infected or who has AIDS. A person cannot become infected through every-

day work activities with an infected coworker. HIV cannot be transmitted through casual contact such as a handshake, a sneeze or a hug, or from sharing cups, dishes, tools, telephones, computers or office equipment. A person can't "catch" HIV from air, food, water, insects or animals, or become infected from a toilet seat, a water fountain or a doorknob.

If any person has an injury at work involving blood, avoid direct contact with the blood. Practice universal precautions. If handling blood, use protective equipment, a barrier such as a cloth, or wear latex or vinyl gloves. Wash your hands with soap and water afterward.

Having HIV does not mean the end of one's career. There are federal laws that prohibit discrimination against HIV-infected persons such as the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Army Reg-

ulation 600-110, "Identification, Surveillance and Administration of Personnel Infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)," addresses workplace issues and practices in the Army. It provides specific guidance to commanders regarding HIV education and prevention, counseling, treatment, and workplace issues such as confidentiality and protection of disclosure of HIV status.

The disclosure of a Soldier's HIV status is on a "need to know" basis for medical reasons and fitness for duty. Soldiers who have HIV cannot be separated against their will from service because they are infected. They are not deployable but may be reassigned. Army civilians who are HIV infected or have AIDS are also protected by this regulation and federal law. They can work as long as they have acceptable work performance and pose no safety

or health threat to their coworkers. HIV-infected personnel may choose to withhold their status from coworkers or to disclose it.

Disciplinary action can be taken against persons who refuse to work with HIV-infected persons.

Take an active role in response to HIV/AIDS. Know the facts about HIV to help foster a compassionate environment. Practice the workplace policies as governed by regulation and law.

**For more information, visit**

- CDC, HIV/AIDS, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>
- CDC, National HIV and STD Testing Resources, [www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org)
- Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (pages 2-14), [http://afhsc.army.mil/msmr\\_pdfs/2008/v15\\_n06.pdf](http://afhsc.army.mil/msmr_pdfs/2008/v15_n06.pdf)
- Veterans Affairs National HIV/AIDS Program, <http://www.hiv.va.gov/>



## FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION HAPPENINGS

### SKIES Tae Kwon Do class participates in belt ceremony

Story and photo by **RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

Nineteen Tae Kwon Do students participated in a belt ceremony while their Families cheered them on at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center's gymnasium Nov. 24.

Before the ceremony, the students, ages 6 to 14, had to pass an exam in order to earn the belt. Students had to know different stances, kicks and punches to pass the exam.

These were techniques that students learned in the class, which was held twice a week at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, Oct. 20 to Nov. 24.

The class was considered beginner level and for those who had not practiced the sport or needed a review.

During the ceremony, students demonstrated what they learned before receiving their belt. After the demonstration, eighteen students received a 9th gup (rank) white belt with yellow stripe, and one student received a 10th gup white belt.

Marlena Long, who attended the ceremony to support her two daughters, said she is glad that she let her daughters take the class.

"Tae Kwon Do teaches discipline and respect, and it is a chance for my children to be with friends in a safe environment," Marlena said "Also, the classes are very convenient, because they are located right at the Youth Center, where my daughters go for after school care. Participating in the class gives them something to



*Jael Rogne, 8, and Kendal Rogne, 7, perform a stance during a Nov. 24 Tae Kwon Do exam that the students had to pass in order to earn a 9th gup [rank] white belt with a yellow stripe. Nineteen students received belts later that evening during a belt ceremony in the gymnasium of the Aberdeen Area Youth Center.*

look forward to during the week, and the prices are reasonable, cheaper than classes off post."

"I enjoyed learning new techniques like the front snap kick, and being with my friends," said Jade, 9, Marlena's daughter. "My sister and I practice together and we want to learn more."

Ruth McBride, another parent, also said that she was glad that her sons have taken the class.

"Tyler, my oldest son, studied Tae Kwon Do years ago and he really enjoyed it," said Ruth McBride. "When my younger son, Aedan, wanted to sign up

for the Tae Kwon Do class Tyler said that he would like to also take the class to build on what he previously learned. I wanted them to sign up for the class because not only is it good exercise, it teaches discipline."

"I really enjoyed the class and want to continue working on my skills, which will help when I eventually practice sparring, [free-form fighting] in the advanced classes," Tyler, 14, said. "I practice frequently at home with my brother."

Williams said that the sport is good activity for children

"Children typically have plenty of energy, and prac-

ticing Tae Kwon Do gives them an outlet to release that energy in a positive way," Williams said. "It is a constructive activity, alternative to bad behavior children might get involved in like gangs and drugs."

"Tae Kwon Do is also very Family oriented," Williams continued. "There are siblings in my class who practice together at home. I would like to someday offer a beginner class for parents so that they can practice with their children."

The Tae Kwon Do class is offered through the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills Unlimited also known as SKIES Unlimited, which is the Army's Child, Youth & School Services instructional program that is designed and supported by the experiences children and youth have in Army CY&SS and in schools.

Stacie Umbarger, the SKIES Unlimited director said that Tae Kwon Do is the most popular class offered through the program.

"When we offered this program in the spring, we had eight students, and now we have twenty students," Umbarger said.

She added that Tae Kwon Do beginner and advanced classes will be offered again in January.

For more information, e-mail Umbarger at Stacie.umbarger1@us.army.mil or call 410-278-4589.

Information about SKIES Unlimited can also be found at [http://www.apgmwr.com/family/youth\\_skies.html](http://www.apgmwr.com/family/youth_skies.html).

### AFAP conference to be held in January

ACS

Army Community Service is soliciting input in the form of suggestions, complaints or discussion topics from APG Soldiers, civilian employees, Family members, retirees and youths for the Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Family Action Plan Conference Jan. 27 to 29 at Top of the Bay.

The AFAP process reviews, prioritizes and resolves issues solicited from the community.

ACS welcomes any suggestions regarding an individual or group's sense of well-being.

A Nov. 21 memorandum from Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, stated that during the conference, 60 delegates made up of married and single Soldiers, single parents, high school students, retirees, civilian personnel and representatives of guard and reserve components, will prioritize, discuss and out-brief the most important issues concerning the well-being of community members and that issues are needed from all parts of the APG community.

To submit suggestions call Marilyn Howard, AFAP Coordinator, 410-278-9669; FAX 410-278-9685; fill out the form on the APG Web site at [www.apg.army.mil](http://www.apg.army.mil), e-mail [marilyn.e.howard@us.army.mil](mailto:marilyn.e.howard@us.army.mil); or write: AFAP, Army Community Service, Building 2754, room 203, APG MD 21005-5001.

**The following are sample topics that may be considered for developing issues during the AFAP Conference:**

- Medical: benefits, TRICARE, dental, appointments, Wounded Warrior Program, Veterinary services, Army Substance Abuse etc.
- Military Pay: allowances, entitlements, etc.
- Housing: Family housing, barracks, Army lodging, etc
- Civilian personnel: pay banding, NSPS, Thrift Savings Plan, etc.
- Child/Youth services: youth and child development centers; Family Child Care, Home Alone Policy, etc.
- Emergency services: police, fire, medical
- Also:
  - \* Roads and utilities
  - \* Army Education Center
  - \* Chaplain activities and services
  - \* Retirement services
  - \* Casualty assistance



## AW2

From front page

educational opportunities for Soldiers and their Families.

"The Army Wounded Warrior Program takes to heart the Warrior Ethos, 'I will never leave a fallen comrade,'" Rochelle said.

Carbone said that the CHRA HQ Wounded Warrior recruitment cell works closely with the AW2 program to make these placements happen.

CHRA HQ officially kicked off their recruitment effort by organizing the Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel (AG-1 CP) recruitment booth at this year's Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington D.C., Oct. 6 through 8.

"Our recruitment effort gained recognition in a public forum, and our booth was visited by Lieu-

tenant General Rochelle and Pete Geren, the Secretary of the Army," Carbone said. "We were able to talk to many veterans and their Families about Army civilian employment."

Carbone said that human resource specialists also administered career surveys and gave Army Resume Builder and Vacancy Announcement Board tutorials to booth visitors.

Carbone added that the Wounded Warrior recruitment cell submits weekly reports to the Army G-1 about the status of those that have registered with the AW2 program.

"Placing Wounded Warriors in civilian jobs that match their skills and geographic location is a big concern of the Army," Carbone said. "If we do not find a match we have to give a reason in our weekly report to the Army G-1, which makes us accountable."

Carbone added that to start the process all Wounded Warriors are asked to

work with a Wounded Warrior advocate from AW2, who will help ease the transition both professionally and personally.

The AW2 Program and the Army Career Alumni Program help Wounded Warriors create their resumes. AW2 advocates send CHRA resumes of Wounded Warriors, and then human resource specialists from the Wounded Warrior recruitment cell work to find positions for them based on the candidate's job experience, skills and geographic location.

Carbone said that CHRA recently forwarded a proposal to use the Department of Defense existing priority placement system to assist in finding employment for Wounded Warriors. DoD is currently reviewing the proposal and will make a final decision within the next few months.

"This is one of the best placement applications in the federal government," he said. "If approved, while

Wounded Warriors wouldn't be mandatory priority placements, their resumes would get maximum exposure across DoD."

Carbone added that CHRA HQ also oversees the Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers, the local human resources offices which are responsible for hiring and maintaining the civilian workforce. The CHRA HQ recruitment cell works with CPAC human resource specialists extensively because CPACs manage local recruitment efforts and have extensive contact with potential employers.

"The goal is to find the best AW2 recruitment practices used in the CPACs and Army Commands, and share those practices," Carbone said. "We also have been asking human resource officers in Warrior Resource Units about their local placement efforts."

Carbone said that Wounded Warriors typically display and possess qualities that employers are looking

for in a job candidate.

"For us, it is sound human resources recruitment," Carbone said.

He said that Wounded Warriors are good candidates for civilian jobs because they have lived the Army's values. AW2s are comfortable with Army protocol and lingo, understand the challenges of being deployed, and despite having a disability, insist on continuing their service to their country as an Army civilian.

Carbone said that many employers approach Wounded Warrior recruitment from a sympathetic perspective, but Wounded Warriors he's talked to indicated they don't need sympathy, they only want to be respected and given opportunities to continue their service.

Carbone added that many veterans wounded in combat have excelled in civil service.

"It takes great perseverance to take on the daily challenges of a disability.

This constant exercise of determination strengthens character. Veterans with this self-discipline and fortitude are the types of people we want to work in the Army civilian workforce," Carbone said.

For more information, visit the AW2 Web site, <https://www.aw2.army.mil/index.html>

To find current job openings on the Army Job Opportunities Web site, visit [http://acpol.army.mil/employment/apply\\_jobs.htm](http://acpol.army.mil/employment/apply_jobs.htm).

Wounded Warriors can develop and submit a resume online using the Army's Resume Builder at <https://cpolst.belvoir.army.mil/Public/resume-builder/builder/Index.isp>.

Information and examples on how to write and submit a resume may be found in the Army Job Application Kit at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/employment/jobkit.pdf>.



# Families have fun learning safety message during open house

Story and photos by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

A holiday safety message was delivered in a fun way for Aberdeen Proving Ground Families during the Holiday Safety Open House held at building 2200 Nov. 22.

Arts and crafts projects, balloons, and other entertainment complimented messages of how to stay safe and crime-free from the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment's Fire and Emergency Services Division and Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security.

The event was organized by fire inspector Doug Farrington who said it was held to reinforce the message of holiday safety. This would have been held during the annual Fall Fest but was cancelled in October due to bad weather.

He thanked the many organizations and volunteers who worked to put the event together within just two weeks.

"It was really great to see more than two-hundred and fifty people come out to our event. In just a little over two weeks we pulled it off. It was a team effort," Farrington said.

"The kids loved our new Bounce House fire truck. We'll use that at different events throughout the year to teach kids to slide to safety," he added.

"Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, and the high winds impacted several of our live outdoor demonstrations on kitchen safety and turkey frying, but I think we got our points across to be very careful about the oil level in the fryer prior to immersing the turkey," he said.

Firefighters provided letter writing materials and a shiny red mailbox which will be available throughout the holiday season for children who want to mail a letter to Santa.

"This too was something that the children really enjoyed," Farrington said. "In fact, I believe Santa has some of those letters, and responses are on their way to the children."

The firemen, paramedics and emergency medical technicians manned the Fire and Emergency Services display where visitors received fire prevention pamphlets, coloring books, water bottles and other give-aways; gave tours of its mobile fire prevention unit; and gave fire prevention demonstrations of turkey fryer and kitchen fires.

In addition medical responders demonstrated their new Auto Pulse, a mechanical CPR device which measures chest depth, determines the pressure needed and administers CPR to patients, freeing responders to hurry transport.

"Human CPR provides seventy-five percent of heart function and research shows that this provides one-hundred twenty-five percent," said paramedic Tim Richmond, adding, that "Life-saving technology over the past thirty years has been absolutely amazing."

Paramedic Mike Slayman added that emergency responders continue to offer CPR training to the community.

"It's still going on. Check the APG News Shorts section for dates and times," he said.

Fire chief Steve Hinch said he was pleased with the event.

"It's going real well with a pretty good turnout," he said. "This is all just to make everyone aware of how to stay safe over the holidays."

The crime fighting message was delivered by DLES community police officer Mike (Big Mike) Farlow



Carter Goldsmith, 2, doesn't seem too thrilled with Santa who showed up at the Holiday Safety Open House with candy cane-filled pockets which he distributed to all the boys and girls.



Marc Vogelhut, 9, listens as APG paramedic Tim Richmond demonstrates the Auto Pulse, a mechanical CPR device that measures chest depth, determines the amount of pressure needed and performs CPR on the ill or injured, freeing responders to transport or evacuate more quickly.

who manned the Community Policing and Crime Prevention Unit display, distributing flyers for the 2009 D.A.R.E dance program and raffle tickets for a Thanksgiving basket give-away. Aided by McGruff, the Crime Fighting Dog, Farlow presented the basket, with turkey and fixings, to raffle winner Pam Evelyn and her daughter Lezlee Brown, 11.

"This will really help with the holiday meal," Evelyn said.

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Army Community Service, and the Army Substance Abuse Program supported the event with numerous displays and activities.

Entertainment included Nothin' Up My Sleeve entertainment, and guest appearances from McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, Dora the Explorer, and a visit from the jolly old man in the red suit who gave candy canes to all the girls and boys.

In addition, children enjoyed playing in the ACS bounce house and on the new giant fire engine slide belonging to the Fire and Emergency Services Division.

Display tables included an ACS information table, domestic violence awareness T-shirt projects; arts and craft projects by the Aberdeen and Edgewood Area youth and child development centers; sign-ups for SKIES Unlimited sports programs; and an ASAP display that included a bean bag toss game and medication recorder information.

At the ASAP table Cindy Scott distributed "Join the Fight" bracelets and Medical Recorder note books.

"These come in really han-

dy in the event of an accident. Doctors need to know what medications you're taking. We recommend you update it at least quarterly or anytime your medication changes," Scott said.

Diana Hayes, ACS information and referral services and Phyllis Ethridge, ACS relocation program manager, distributed brochures about ACS services at the ACS display.

"Anything to do with serving the community we're quick to be a part of," Hayes said, noting that ACS provided The Museum of the Really Strange and Nothin' Up My Sleeve entertainment.

A real crowd-pleaser was the museum, a traveling collection of oddities featuring everything from shrunken heads to giant tarantulas. Curator Marty Grans said the more than 700 artifacts are contained in 1,400 foot lockers and are collected from all over the world.

"It's an unusual collection and it's appreciated because we get donations from collectors and other museums including the Smithsonian," Grans said.

Most visitors seemed to enjoy the event.

"Stuff like this is entertaining and better than watching TV," said Army National Guard Spc. Georgina Onomake, a supply technician with the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School who brought her three children.

Marian Goldsmith, a paralegal with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, smiled as she watched her son Carter, 2, interacting with Santa.

"This is a nice event," she said. "We just got here, and he's already having fun."



A firefighter with the Fire and Emergency Services Division tries to coax the fire to burn stronger in the kitchen fire trailer but cold winds forced a cancellation of the demonstration.



From left, Kenny Singleton, 6, Nakia Cromwell and her daughter Akira, 5; Singletons' twin sister Kenana, 6, and older sister Kennyra, 7, work on sand art projects at the AA/EA Youth Center table.



T-shirts painted by APG youths and bearing "Hands Are Not For Hitting" themes decorate clothes lines near the Army Community Service Domestic Violence Awareness Month display.